

Members of the Human Services Committee:

My name is Daniela Vergara , I'm 24 years old and I live in Hartford. I'm a member of Hartford Deportation Defense. I'm in favor of **HB6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.**

My particular case was like this: Like all women, I had to get a mammogram and a pap smear. Because I didn't have insurance, I was able to obtain these health exams through a free program at Hartford Hospital. I have a hormonal disorder, so every year I have to get checked by a gynecologist. Since I didn't have insurance, I got an appointment through this gynecology program at Hartford Hospital. During this appointment they gave me two ultrasounds, and the appointment lasted about 20 minutes. 15 days later, a bill arrived at my house for \$2500-- How can I pay this amount every time that I have to get checked for my condition? For this reason and many more, all people should have health insurance whether or not they have legal status in this country.

I'll tell you about another experience: one day I couldn't breathe. My body started to fall asleep. At the time I had health insurance from where I was working. I went to the Uconn hospital with my husband and when I was filling out all the paperwork about health insurance it appeared that my insurance was inactive. When the bill arrived at my house it was \$4500 for an emergency room visit. That is a ridiculous amount.

I am here supporting **HB6616: An Act Concerning Expansion Of Husky Health Benefits To Those Ineligible Due To Immigration Status.** We need everyone to have access to health insurance, and for this committee to commit itself to keep working to expand the program beyond 26 years old.

Thank you for your time,
Daniela Vergara